



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH &
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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CONTACT: Jill M. Hudson
615-532-6597 (OFFICE)
615-305-7661 (CELL)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON ADDICTIONS HELD IN NASHVILLE MAY 20-25 *PUBLIC ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND FREE SESSION ON OVERCOMING ADDICTION*

Nashville—The Tennessee Advanced School on Addiction (TASA) celebrates 30 years of education May 20-25, 2007 at Belmont University in Nashville. Sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities' (TDMHDD) Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, TASA, also known as The Summit, has elicited a diverse professional group of over 350 attendees from the substance abuse field to learn from each other as well as from nationally recognized experts in the field.

"This year's theme, '30 Years of History, 30 Years of Recovery, 30 Years of Excellence: Leadership for the 21st Century' truly reflects the impact this conference has had on the recovery community over three decades," stated TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. "Our feature presentations will detail the latest evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, as well as highlight strategies designed to build relationships with community and faith-based organizations to recognize and fight addiction."

A variety of experts from across the nation will speak at the Summit including Jerry Moe, National Director of Children's Programs at the Betty Ford Center; published author Isabel Burk, Director of the Health Network; and Nashville singer/songwriter John McAndrew.

The public is invited to attend the Wednesday evening session from 7-9:00 p.m. at Belmont's Massey Performing Arts Center. William Cope Moyers, author of *Broken: My Story of Addiction and Redemption* will discuss overcoming addiction, identifying three factors that indicate progress, and applying techniques to relate to positive behaviors beyond victimization. An award-winning journalist, Moyers has worked at CNN, Newsday, and various other newspapers around the country.

"Having William Cope Moyers, son of the famous journalist Bill Moyers, promises an opportunity for the general public to hear how addiction can affect the life of any family, including a prominent one," stated Jay Jana, coordinator of TASA and statewide training coordinator for TDMHDD's Division of Alcohol and Drug Services. "It will also let people know that they are not alone, help is out there, and recovery is possible."

For more information on TASA please visit www.state.tn.us/mental or call 615-253-4812.

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